Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the method is performed for diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension within a patient.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein said pressure sensor is a capacitive sensor.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein said sensing device further comprises a battery.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The method of claim 4 further

comprising wireless means for recharging said battery.

Claims 6 and 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein said method further comprises calculating changes in said pulmonary artery pressure over time, dp/dt.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The method of claim 30, further comprising using a readout device that is not implanted in the patient to telecommunicate with and/or telepower said sensing device. ~~telecommunicating and/or telepowering said sensing device with a readout device that is not adapted to be implanted in the patient.~~

Claims 10 through 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of placing said sensor package in said pulmonary artery using a surgical technique.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of placing said sensor package using a minimally invasive outpatient technique.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of placing said sensor package using a catheter delivery technique.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein said sensor package further comprises an anchoring mechanism.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein said sensor package is anchored to the second pulmonary artery by the diameter of said sensor package.

Claims 22-29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A method of delivering a hermetic sensor package to monitor pulmonary artery pressure within a patient, said

sensor package having a diameter and being adapted to be implanted into ~~and configured to block~~ a pulmonary artery of the patient, said sensor package containing at least one sensing device, said sensing device comprising at least one pressure sensor, the method comprising:

injecting said sensor package so as to deliver said sensor package into a first pulmonary artery, wherein blood flow through the first pulmonary artery delivers said sensor package into a second pulmonary artery with a smaller diameter than said first pulmonary artery, the second pulmonary artery being sufficiently small to prevent further movement of said sensor package and anchor said sensor package therein;

blocking the second pulmonary artery with said sensor package; and

operating said sensor package to chronically monitor pulmonary artery pressure with said sensor while the blocked second pulmonary artery remains blocked by said sensor package.

Claim 31 (Currently amended): The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of encapsulating ~~cell growth and encapsulation of~~ said sensor package with cell growth to stabilize said sensor package after blocking the second pulmonary artery with said sensor package.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein at least a portion of said sensor package is coated with one or more layers of coatings.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The method of claim 32 wherein said one or more layers of coatings are formed from at least coating material chosen from the group consisting of silicone, hydrogels, parylene, polymer, nitrides, oxides, nitric-oxide generating materials, carbides, silicides, titanium, and combinations thereof.

Claim 34 (New): The method of claim 30, wherein as a result of the second pulmonary artery being blocked with said sensor package, other pulmonary arteries compensate for the blocked second pulmonary artery.